



Spotlight on Excellence – Professional Development Day - Mill City Educators' Conference

TO: Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Robin Desmond, Chief Academic Officer *Robin Desmond*

DATE: December 12, 2019

RE: *Election Day Professional Learning* - Mill City Educators' Conference

The Mill City Educators' Conference (MCEC) was held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019 as a collaborative professional development experience between the McAuliffe, McAvinnue, Moody, and Murkland Schools as well as the Office of Teaching and Learning and Mill City Grows. The conference brought together over 200 Teachers, Paraprofessionals, and Administrative Support Staff to learn together and from each other as participants shared best practice happening in their classrooms and across the district. The goal of the conference was to leverage the district's greatest talent, its staff, by opening dialogue and creating connections across the four schools involved.

MCEC opened with keynote speaker, Nili Bartley, author of *Lead Beyond Your Title: Creating Change in School from Any Role*, who focused her talk on how any staff member can be a change agent as well as provide similar opportunities for their students. It then continued with teachers choosing from thirty different presentations that ranged in topics from ELA and Math to Social Emotional Learning, English Language Learners, Special Education, and more.

The conference would not have been possible without the willingness of educators from the four schools, the Office of Teaching and Learning and our community partner to prepare and lead discussions, presentations, and working sessions for others to attend. The presenters included: Sarin Ay, Johnna Bahou, Tara Bedard, Heather Bellerose, Kate Burgess-MacIntosh, Giuliana Cappucci, Annamarie Cayer, Arlene De La Luz, Christina Dixon, Kara Figueiredo, Shannon Flahive, Alexis Florence, Heather Frugoli, Shelagh Gallagher, Aimee Galloway, Lisa Golner, Artemis Goor, Kathy Ha, Kelly Illescas, Marilyn Jonas, Kathleen Larocque, Laura Lesniak, Jessica Markey, Felisha Martineau, Kristin Moulton, Mary Murphy-Porkola, Patricia Myers, Katie Nangle, Melissa Newell, Maggie Nowak, Patricia Pappathan, Ashley Pennell, Veronique Roberts, Lindsay Serpe, Dan Shanahan, Barbara Smith, Doug St. Lawrence, Gina Tonelli, Heidi Upton, and Kara Wilkins. The Mill City Educators' Conference Website can be found at: <https://sites.google.com/lowell.k12.ma.us/mcec2019/home>

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